Setting of coal plants in Gujarat

612. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA:
SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of coal plants set up in Kutechha District of Gujarat and how many of them are in pipeline;

(b) the expected investment in the above plants;

(c) whether there is any protest made by environmentalists in setting up of nearly 40 coal plants; and

(d) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) Government owned coal companies have not set up any coal plant in the state of Gujarat.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of answer to (a) above.

Expansion of coal industry

†613. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Planning Commission has given some suggestions for expansion of the coal industry as per the requirement of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decisions taken by Government to implement these suggestions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Planning Commission has suggested some critical initiatives for the development of coal sector which, *inter alia,* include the following:

(i) Expedite passing of Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Amendment Bill, 2000 which would permit private sector in non-captive mining in order to augment domestic coal production for meeting the rising coal demand..

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(ii) Amend the provisions of Mines & Minerals Development and Regulation (MMDR) Act, 1957 to facilitate offering of coal blocks to potential enterpreneurs on competitive bidding basis.

(iii) Enlarge the scope of captive mining by permitting captive block holders to sell incidental coal production during development of the block at least to Coal India Ltd. (CIL).

(iv) Restructure Coal India Ltd. (CIL) by doing away with the holding company structure and extending autonomy to individual coal producing companies for promoting competition amongst the national coal companies.

(v) Permit trading of coal by removing it from the list of essential commodities.

(vi) Change grading and pricing of non-coking coal from the existing Useful Heat Value (UHV) to Gross Calorific Value (GCV) to encourage efficient use and allocation and promote use of washed coal.

(vii) Amend the provisions of Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act, 1970 to facilitate offloading of certain activities in coal mining for improved economics of operations.

(viii) As a step towards abolishing coal linkages these linkages may be made tradable by power plants.

The decisions/actions taken by the Government in respect of the above suggestions of the Planning Commission are as under:—

(i) The Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Amendment Bill, 2000 has been introduced in Rajya Sabha in April, 2000 to permit private participation in non-captive coal mining in order to augment coal production in the country.

(ii) An amendment to the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973 has been proposed for allocation of coal blocks on competitive bidding basis and for that a Cabinet Note has been prepared.

(iii) As regards enlarging the scope of captive mining by permitting captive holders to sell incidental coal production during the development of a mine to CIL, this has already been decided by the Government.

(iv) In a bid to give increased autonomy to the subsidiaries of Coal India Limited, the Government has decided to delegate powers exercised by CIL relating to procurement of all items except explosives to the coal producing subsidiaries. Further it has been decided to completely delegate power relatiang to marketing in the non-core sector to MCL, WCL and SECL. The issue of restructuring of CIL is being looked into by an Expert Committee constituted by the Government.

(v) Ministry of Coal has communicated to the Department of Consumer Affairs its in principle agreement to the deletion of coal from the list of essential commodities under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

(vi) A pilot study to generate sufficient data for gradation of coal on the basis of gross calorific value has been entrusted to the Central Fuel Research Institute.

(vii) As far as the nationalized coal sector is concerned, the coal companies seek exemptions under the provisions of the Contract Labour (Regulation and Development) Act for certain activities of coal mining on case to case basis from time to time.

(viii) Presently no proposal for making coal linkages tradable by power plants is under consideration.

Revival of Bharat Coking and Eastern Coalfields

614. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
SHRI B. J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to revive the Bharat Coking and Eastern Coalfields;

(b) if so, the details of the revival package and its funding; and

(c) what is the proposed production target for both the companies after their revival?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL) and Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) have been referred to the Board for Industrial & Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) as sick industrial companies under Section 15 of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provision) Act,